

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 129-75
19 AUGUST 1975

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EAST ASIA BRIEF 129-75.4

1. LAOS: COMMUNIST-SPONSORED DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF AN END TO VIENTIANE'S NEUTRAL STATUS ARE CONTINUING.4

TWO GROUPS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED EACH DEMONSTRATED IN SEPARATE PARTS OF THE CITY ON AUGUST 18. THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE ORDERLY, PEACEFUL, AND HEAVILY ESCORTED BY PATHET LAO TROOPS. THE COMMUNISTS SEEM UNABLE TO STIR UP ANY REAL ENTHUSIASM FOR THESE AFFAIRS, AND ONE MARCH WAS DESCRIBED AS MORE LIKE A FUNERAL PROCESSION THAN A POLITICAL RALLY. THE PARTICIPANTS PARROTED COMMUNIST SLOGANS, CALLING FOR THE REMOVAL OF NON-COMMUNIST LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.4

A FINAL MASS RALLY BY CITY RESIDENTS AND PEOPLE FROM SURROUNDING VILLAGES AUGMENTED BY PATHET LAO TROOPS ARE SUPPOSED TO CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO "LIBERATE" VIENTIANE BY CHANGING THE 1973 PEACE ACCORDS SO THAT THE CITY IS NO LONGER TERMED NEUTRAL.4

THE COMMUNISTS ARE CONCENTRATING ONLY ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF VIENTIANE CITY AND HAVE MADE NO APPARENT EFFORT TO USE THE

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RALLIES TO MAKE ANY FURTHER CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS STILL NOMINALLY A COALITION. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, NEW LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SELECTED IN THE CITY'S FOUR DISTRICTS, BUT NO CHANGES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED IN THE CENTRAL MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

2. CHINA, CAMBODIA: AN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED ON MONDAY IN PEKING BY CAMBODIA'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KIEU SAMPHAN AND CHINESE VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING.4

SAMPHAN AND PRINCE SIHANOUK'S PEKING-BASED PRIME MINISTER, PENN NOUTH, ARRIVED TODAY IN PYONGYANG, WHERE THEY PROBABLY WILL CONFER WITH SIHANOUK. THE PRINCE HAS SPENT THE PAST THREE MONTHS IN THE NORTH KOREAN CAPITAL. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.H

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 129-75.4

LL //ARGENTINA: THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE APPOINTMENT OF ARGENTINE ARMY COLONEL VICENTE DAMASCO AS INTERIOR MINISTER IS SUBSIDING.//4

//A RECENT COMMUNIQUE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA PERON'S RIGHT TO NAME A MILITARY OFFICER TO THE CABINET, BUT DISSOCIATED THE ARMY FROM SUPPORTING HIM. THE ARMY, CITING THE LETTER OF THE LAW, DECLARED IT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE REPRESENTED IN THE GOVERNMENT ONLY BY THE DEFENSE MINISTER OR BY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.//4

//DAMASCO IS MOVING TO ASSUME DIRECTION OF THE DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT, WITH PERON AS A CEREMONIAL CHIEF OF STATE. HE HAS TRIED TO STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION BY IDENTIFYING STRONGLY WITH THE LATE JUAN PERON. THE NEW INTERIOR MINISTER CLEARLY SHOWED HIS INTENTION TO BE THE DOMINANT FORCE IN THE GOVERNMENT WHEN HE CLAIMED TO HAVE RECEIVED A NATIONAL PLAN--"POLITICAL IN NATURE"--FROM JUAN PERON SHORTLY BEFORE THE LATTER'S DEATH.//4

//THE INTERIOR MINISTER ALSO SUGGESTED THAT HE FAVORS

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DECISION-MAKING BY CONSENSUS AND THAT HE OPPOSES THE AUTOCRATIC WAYS OF THE EXILED LOPEZ REGA.//Y

//UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT, THE 45-YEAR-OLD DAMASCO HAS SERVED AS MILITARY SECRETARY AND SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE PRESIDENCY. DESPITE THE RESULTING CLOSE CONTACT WITH LOPEZ REGA, DAMASCO MANAGED TO AVOID BECOMING CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE OUSTED PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER.//Y

//POLITICAL SKILL AS WELL AS A SOUND MILITARY REPUTATION NO DOUBT MADE THIS POSSIBLE; THESE SAME TRAITS PROBABLY ENABLED DAMASCO TO SURVIVE THE PURGE THAT FOLLOWED THE MILITARY'S OVERTHROW OF PERON IN 1955.//Y

//IT REPORTEDLY WAS DAMASCO WHO CONVINCED THE PRESIDENT THAT, IN THE CURRENT CRITICAL SITUATION, THE CABINET REORGANIZATION WAS NECESSARY TO STAVE OFF A MILITARY COUP. HE PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN SELECTING THE NEW MINISTERS, RESERVING FOR HIMSELF THE KEY MINISTRY, WHICH GIVES HIM IMPORTANT SECURITY AND POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES.//Y

//ARMY CHIEF GENERAL HUMA LAPLANE STAUNCHLY SUPPORTS DAMASCO

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AND MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED HIM TO TAKE THE INTERIOR PORTFOLIO. SINCE THE ARMY IS THE MOST POWERFUL SERVICE, DANASCO IS LIKELY TO REMAIN IN HIS POST, DESPITE THE RIFT HIS APPOINTMENT HAS CAUSED IN MILITARY UNITY. {SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM} //Y

2. COLOMBIA: COLOMBIA HAS DECIDED TO PERMIT HIGHER CEILING PRICES FOR CRUDE OIL PRODUCED FROM BOTH OLD AND NEW WELLS IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE EXPLORATION AND STEM DECLINING PRODUCTION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS LONG RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR HIGHER OIL PRICES, BUT HAS DELAYED TAKING ACTION BECAUSE IT WANTED TO AVOID REPERCUSSIONS FROM PUSHING UP ENERGY COSTS. //Y

THE PRICE PAID BY COLOMBIAN REFINERIES FOR CRUDE FROM OLD WELLS WILL BE INCREASED TO \$3.50 A BARREL--UP FROM \$3.65 A BARREL, ONE OF THE LOWEST PRICES IN THE WORLD. OIL FROM NEW WELLS WILL COST FROM \$5.50 TO \$7 A BARREL; THE HIGHER PRICES WILL APPLY TO DEEP WELLS AND WELLS IN DISTANT REGIONS. Y

COLOMBIA'S OIL INDUSTRY HAS DETERIORATED SHARPLY BECAUSE OF THE PRICE CONTROLS. PRODUCTION HAS BEEN DECLINING SINCE 1970 AND EXPORTS OF CRUDE OIL STOPPED IN EARLY 1974. EXPLORATION HAS ALSO

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FALLEN OFF. NO IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL WELL HAS BEEN DRILLED IN 11 YEARS, AND RECOVERABLE RESERVES NOW TOTAL 620 MILLION BARRELS-- ONLY TEN YEARS CONSUMPTION. D/

WITH DEMAND FOR ENERGY RISING 8 PERCENT A YEAR AND OIL PRODUCTION FALLING RAPIDLY, FEAR OF A LARGE IMPORT BILL FOR OIL IS ADDING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S WORRIES. OIL IMPORTS COST \$3 MILLION LAST YEAR. Y

MOST OIL COMPANIES, WHICH MUST GIVE PRIORITY TO COLOMBIA'S DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, WILL REACT TO THE NEW PRICES BY EXPANDING PRODUCTION OF OIL FROM OLD WELLS. THIS WILL ALLOW COLOMBIA TO MEET ITS DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS AT LEAST THROUGH 1976. THE COMPANIES WILL ALSO EXPAND EXPLORATION, BUT PRODUCTION FROM NEW DISCOVERIES PROBABLY WILL NOT ADD SUBSTANTIALLY TO DOMESTIC SUPPLIES BEFORE 1980. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 INPDET. H

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EUROPEAN BRIEF 127-75.4

1. PORTUGAL: PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES USED A LEFT-WING LABOR UNION RALLY MONDAY NIGHT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF LISBON TO APPEAL AGAIN FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT. PRO-GONCALVES SOURCES SAID THE RALLY WAS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS TO DRUM UP POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER.4

GONCALVES' DECISION TO APPEAR IN PUBLIC—A RARE OCCURRENCE SINCE THE PRESENT CHALLENGE TO HIS LEADERSHIP BEGAN—FOLLOWED SEVERAL DAYS OF EMERGENCY MEETINGS WITH HIS CABINET AND RENEWED EFFORTS BY PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES AMONG THE VARIOUS FACTIONS OF THE RULING ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT.4

THE ANTI-COMMUNIST GROUP LED BY MAJOR MELO ANTUNES IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORT TO REACH A COMPROMISE WITH THE RADICAL LEFTIST GROUP OF GENERAL OTELO DE CARVALHO. CARVALHO REPORTEDLY IS SEEKING ASSURANCES THAT THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT VEER TO THE RIGHT IF THE PRESENT REGIME

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X1X IS OUSTED. [REDACTED] HAS SAID THAT THIS WEEK WILL BE DECISIVE, AND THE NEWSPAPER REPORTED YESTERDAY THAT THE TWO GROUPS HAD ALREADY REACHED AGREEMENT.4

ONE KEY OFFICER WHO HAS REMAINED IN THE BACKGROUND DURING MOST OF THE PRESENT POWER STRUGGLE IS ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO. THE AMBITIOUS ADMIRAL TRAVELED TO HAVANA ON MONDAY TO BEGIN A TWO-WEEK VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA. AFTER SPENDING A WEEK IN CUBA, HE WILL HEAD THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE OF NONALIGNED NATIONS IN LIMA—WHICH PORTUGAL IS ATTENDING AS AN OBSERVER—BEFORE RETURNING HOME ON SEPTEMBER 2. ROSA COUTINHO'S ABSENCE DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD MAY PERMIT HIM TO AVOID TAKING SIDES IN THE CURRENT STRUGGLE AND MAINTAIN HIS POSITION AND INFLUENCE WHATEVER THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME.4

GONCALVES' COMMUNIST PARTY SUPPORTERS, MEANWHILE, HAVE SCHEDULED ANOTHER RALLY FOR TUESDAY IN THE NORTHERN CITY OF PORTO. THE COMMUNISTS' OBJECTIVE IN CONTINUING TO HOLD RALLIES WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE KNOWN TO BE OVERWHELMINGLY

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HOSTILE IS NOT YET CLEAR. IT MAY SIMPLY BE AN EFFORT BY THE COMMUNISTS TO ASSERT THEIR RIGHT TO MEET WHEREVER THEY CHOOSE, ALTHOUGH IT COULD, ALONG WITH GONCALVES' RE-EMERGENCE IN PUBLIC, BE THE INITIAL EFFORT IN A COMMUNIST COUNTEROFFENSIVE. THE 30-MINUTE GENERAL STRIKE CALLED FOR TUESDAY BY THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION TO PROTEST THE RECENT WAVE OF ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE HAS BEEN SCALED DOWN TO APPLY ONLY IN THE LISBON AREA.

SECURITY FORCES ON MONDAY FIRED ON A MOB THAT ATTACKED AND DESTROYED THE COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN PONTE DE LIMA, A SMALL TOWN NORTH OF PORTO. ONE PERSON WAS KILLED AND 100 WERE INJURED.

REPRODUCED FROM THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE
 VIOLENCE AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS HAS ALSO SPREAD TO THE AZORES, WHERE THOUSANDS OF ANGRY FARMERS ON MONDAY DESTROYED OFFICES OF LEFT-WING PARTIES AND BEAT UP COMMUNISTS IN THE STREETS. FIFTEEN PERSONS WERE INJURED IN THE DISTURBANCES, WHICH OCCURRED ON THE ISLAND OF TERCEIRA. THE

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PORTUGUESE CONTINGENT AT LAJES AIR BASE WAS PLACED ON ALERT.

ANTI-COMMUNIST SENTIMENT IN THE AZORES HAS BEEN A KEY MOTIVATING FACTOR IN THE ISLANDERS' DRIVE FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE MAINLAND AND RECURRING DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE PRESENT TIME COULD BE EXPLOITED BY SEPARATISTS TO TRIGGER AN INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION.

{CONFIDENTIAL}4

2. ROMANIA: A ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT HAS SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS THE ONLY SOVIET EUROPEAN ALLY BREZHNEV HAS NEVER OFFICIALLY VISITED AND THAT GROMYKO HAS NOT OFFICIALLY VISITED THE COUNTRY SINCE SHORTLY AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT IN 1957.4

IF WHAT IS MEANT ARE FORMAL, BILATERAL VISITS ACCOMPANIED BY ALL THE USUAL PROTOCOL, THEN THIS ASSERTION IS CORRECT. IN THE DECADE SINCE CEAUSESCU ASSUMED POWER, HOWEVER, BOTH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO HAVE VISITED BUCHAREST FOR VARIOUS MULTILATERAL MEETINGS AND HAVE ALSO STOPPED BRIEFLY IN THE ROMANIAN CAPITAL WHEN PASSING THROUGH. THEIR LAST

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WAS UNDOUBTEDLY WELL AWARE OF THE FUTILITY OF TRYING TO INFLUENCE CEAUSESCU--HAVING ATTEMPTED BUT FAILED TO SWERVE CEAUSESCU FROM HIS NATIONALIST COURSE DURING A "SECRET, UNOFFICIAL" VISIT TO BUCHAREST IN MAY 1966, AND AT A COMBINED WARSAW PACT - CEMA EXTRAVAGANZA IN BUCHAREST IN JULY OF THE SAME YEAR.4

IN REVIEWING THE TRAVELS OF OTHER HIGH SOVIET OFFICIALS TO BUCHAREST DURING THE PAST DECADE, IT IS APPARENT THAT SOVIET PREMIER KOSYGIN IS THE MOST FREQUENT VISITOR. IN RECOGNITION OF A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH BUCHAREST--OR PERHAPS TO PUT PRESSURE ON CEAUSESCU--THE SOVIETS DID SEND KIRILENKO TO THE ROMANIAN PARTY CONGRESS LAST NOVEMBER. THE ROMANIAN PARTY PROGRAM, HOWEVER, CAUSED THE TEMPERATURE TO DROP AGAIN, AND THE KIRILENKO VISIT WAS THE LAST SOVIET ATTEMPT TO USE PERSONAL DIPLOMACY TO CHANGE THE INDEPENDENT ATTITUDE OF THE ROMANIANS. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.H

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MIDDLE EAST AFRICA BRIEF 129-75.4

1. FEDAYEEN: LEADERS OF THE LESS RADICAL FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION CHAIRMAN YASIR ARAFAT, MAY ADOPT MORE EXTREME POLICIES IN THE EVENT ANOTHER EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT IS IMPLEMENTED. THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLY AGREEMENT HAS ALREADY STRAINED EGYPTIAN-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS AND PROMPTED THE PALESTINIANS TO MOVE EVEN CLOSER TO SYRIA.4

ARAFAT, ACCORDING TO A PRO-FEDAYEEN NEWSPAPER IN BEIRUT, HAS SAID THAT HIS FATAH ORGANIZATION "REJECTS THE AMERICAN SETTLEMENT AND WILL RESIST IT THROUGH THE BARRELS OF OUR GUNS." ALTHOUGH SUCH RHETORIC IS USUALLY INTENDED FOR INTERNAL FEDAYEEN CONSUMPTION, IT MIGHT IN THIS CASE, PRESAGE AN INCREASE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITY DESIGNED TO IMPROVE ARAFAT'S POSITION. SINCE ARAFAT'S WIDELY PUBLICIZED APPEARANCE AT THE UN LAST YEAR, HIS PRESTIGE HAS DIMINISHED STEADILY AS A RESULT OF HIS FAILURE TO PRODUCE ANYTHING CONCRETE FOR THE PALESTINIANS.4

LAST MARCH, FATAH COMMANDOS RAIDED TEL AVIV IN AN EFFORT TO

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UNDERMINE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A SECOND EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT. THAT ATTACK HAD NO DIRECT EFFECT ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT HELPED PROTECT ARAFAT AGAINST CHARGES BY FEDAYEEN "REJECTIONISTS" THAT HE WAS COOPERATING WITH EGYPT AND THE US IN THE FALSE HOPE THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD GAIN SOMETHING FROM NEGOTIATIONS.Y

ARAFAT'S STRATEGY IN THE NEAR FUTURE WILL BE TO MINIMIZE THE DISAFFECTION OF LEADERS OF THE SYRIAN-CONTROLLED SAIQA GROUP AND THE MARXIST-ORIENTED POPULAR DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE GENERALLY SUPPORTED HIS CONCILIATORY POLICIES ON A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. FAILING THIS, ARAFAT WILL TRY NOT TO BE VERY FAR BEHIND THEM IN ANY SWING TOWARD MORE RADICAL POLICIES ON POLITICAL STRATEGY AND THE USE OF TERRORISM.Y

SYRIA'S STAND WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE FORCE IN DETERMINING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE MORE CONCILIATORY FEDAYEEN GROUPS OPPOSE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT. IF THE EGYPTIANS ARE ABLE TO REASSURE SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD AND LIMIT SYRIAN CRITICISM OF EGYPT, THOSE PALESTINIANS WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO FOLLOW DAMASCUS'

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LEAD. THIS WOULD FURTHER WEAKEN ARAFAT.4

MORE MAY BE KNOWN OF SYRIA'S POSITION ON A FURTHER EGYPTIAN-IS-RAELI AGREEMENT WHEN DAMASCUS RESPONDS TO THE LATEST PALESTINIAN INITIATIVE TO IMPLEMENT THE "PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN JOINT POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMAND." THE COMMAND WAS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY ASAD DURING THE MARCH ROUND OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. THE PROPOSAL LAY DORMANT UNTIL LATE LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, WHEN THE PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE CALLED FOR THE "HIGHEST SPEED POSSIBLE" TOWARD SETTING UP A JOINT BODY THAT COULD TAKE A UNIFIED STAND ON "CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS."4

IF SYRIA BECOMES DISILLUSIONED WITH EGYPT AND ABETS PALESTINIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM, ARAFAT AND HIS ASSOCIATES WILL MOVE TOWARD A MORE DIRECT AND FORCEFUL CRITICISM OF EGYPT, THE US, AND THE PRINCIPLE OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. IF UNCHECKED BY EGYPTIAN PROMISES OF EARLY NEGOTIATING PROGRESS ON PALESTINIAN ISSUES, THIS COULD LEAD ULTIMATELY TO A NEW ROUND OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN ISRAEL AND ABROAD. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.H

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